

# U.S. NATIONAL WATER SAFETY ACTION PLAN

OCTOBER 2022

## CREATING A WATER SAFETY PLAN FOR THE U.S. IS A BIG TASK. WE ARE READY FOR THE CHALLENGE.

Shout out to all the the professionals and and organizations that participated in the Stakeholder Surveys! We heard from hundreds of individuals and organizations. Your participation was invaluable in the development of a U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan which is grounded in research, represents best practices, and reflects the depth and breadth of experience of professionals like you.

The next, and final, steps are: conduct modified Delta surveys, finalize the list of recommendations, prioritize national implications, and further shape resources to support implementation at state, county, and local levels.

The first U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan, with recommendations, will roll-out in early 2023. An additional report, containing models and implementation guidelines, is scheduled for May 2023.

## Thank You!

It has literally been a cast of hundreds to create this plan. Thank you to each and every one of you.

We are honored and grateful to have the participation of our Blue Ribbon Panel in the final stages:

- Susan Bathalon, Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction, CPSC
- Kristen Beckworth, Safe Kids Greater Houston and BoD Member, NDPA
- Dr. Steve Bowman, Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)
- Christine Branche, Director, Office of Construction Safety and Health, National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety
- Karen Cohn, Co-Founder, The ZAC Foundation
- Dr. Brighid Dwyer, Inaugural Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Jay Fox, Boy Scouts of America
- Sharon Gilmartin, Deputy Director, Safe States
- David Gorman, Director, Stop Drowning Now & SwimJim
- Eileen Hare, Retired, Director of Physical Education, Chicago Public Schools & Water Safety Taskforce Metro Chicago

- Gareth Hedges, Director of Operations, Property and Casualty, Redwoods Insurance
- Stacey Hoaglund, Autism Society of Florida
- Jeffery Johnson, Retired, Alaska State Office of Boating Safety and Former President of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the Western States Boating Administrators Association
- Dr. Lois Lee, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine, Harvard Medical School
- Dr. Robin Lee, Branch Chief, Applied Sciences Branch, Division of Injury Prevention, Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC
- Kristie Riester, Executive Director, Council for the MAHC
- Kay Smiley, Executive Director, USLA
- Melissa Sutton, Drowning Coalition of AZ
- Dr. Monica Valvilala, Director, Harborview's Injury Prevention and Research Center
- Alecia Wartowski, Principle and Founder, Flip Turn Consulting & Executive Director Foundation 65
- Jill White, Founder, Starfish Aquatics Institute
- Bridget Velasco, Planner and Health Educator, Hawaii State Department of Health



Photo courtesy of Adobestock



- Dr. Peter Wernicki, USLA Medical Committee and American Red Cross Advisory Committee
- Dr. Phyllis Agran, Professor of Pediatrics, University of California, Irvine
- Justin McHenry, Aquatics Specialist, CA State Parks
- Jennifer Rubin, Safe Kids Greater Sacramento
- Tiffaney Isaacson, Water Safety Coordinator, Phoenix Children's Hospital
- Doug Sackett, Former MAHC & NY State lifeguard regulator

## Implementation Update

As the National Water Safety Action Plan recommendations continue to evolve, we are simultaneously thinking about the plan's ultimate implementation. To that end, the ZAC Foundation has engaged ASG Advisors, a strategy and implementation consulting firm familiar to the water safety space, to begin the work of developing an implementation plan. You may hear from the team at ASG Advisors in the coming months, as they begin prioritizing activities by jurisdiction (national, state, county, local), developing stakeholder responsibilities, and categorizing the various tactics, tips, and timelines. A plan is only as strong as its implementation and we're grateful to be working with the ZAC Foundation and ASG Advisors to set us on the right path.



## Research Update

As new evidence emerges, we plan to share up to two key studies with you that are relevant to the NAP. Here are this month's papers of note.

1. CDC notes a major change in fatal drownings nationally: after decreasing between 2010 and 2019, drowning death rates among people ages 29 years and younger increased almost 17% from 2019 to 2020, with some groups (African Americans) at higher risk. Read the [Journal of Safety Research article: Increased unintentional drowning deaths in 2020 by age, race/ethnicity, sex, and location, United States](#)
2. A large study evaluated negative effects of prior experiences on swimming skill acquisition. Read [IJERPH | Free Full-Text | Learning to Swim: An Exploration of Negative Prior Aquatic Experiences Among Children | HTML \(mdpi.com\)](#)

## Conference Update

The 2022 World Aquatic Health Conference is October 13 and 14. The NDPA will be hosting the Drowning Presentation Symposium as part of the conference. Learn more and sign up to attend virtually here: <https://ndpa.org/drowningpreventionsymposium/>

# WE NEED YOU!

Your involvement makes a difference in creating a culture of water safety in the U.S.

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